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Public Meeting to Discuss Air Quality and Health in the San Juan Basin

(Farmington, NM) - The New Mexico Environment Department and the Department of Health will be hosting an open house / public forum in Farmington Wednesday, November 6, to discuss ozone pollution in San Juan County. Brief presentations will be given by the Environment and Health departments, as well as the San Juan County Ozone Task Force, followed by a question and answer session.

Although the federal standard for ozone has not been exceeded in the area, the Environment Department is working with the community to reverse an upward trend, and to keep ozone levels below the standard. Ozone levels recorded by air monitors in the area are unexpectedly high for a rural area. High ozone concentrations are generally found in highly urbanized areas and are associated with emissions from large industrial sources and numerous vehicles.

At the November 6 meeting the Air Quality Bureau will give an update on the ozone levels for the summer of 2002. The Department of Health will discuss the public health effects of exposure to ozone, and the status of public health data from San Juan County. A spokesperson for the Task Force will report on progress made by the group at the initial October 10 meeting.

The meeting will be at the San Juan Community College, Henderson Fine Arts Center, Room 9012 in Farmington, from 5:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m. This will be the second meeting on ozone hosted by the Environment Department.

For more information, please see the Air Quality Bureau's website at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/index.html, click on "Ambient Ozone Measurements in San Juan County," or contact Mary Uhl, Planning and Policy Section Manager at (505) 955-8086.

For more information, contact Mary Uhl, Planning and Policy Section Manager, Air Quality Bureau, NMED at (505) 955-8086, or Roger Polisar, Environmental Compliance Specialist, Air Quality Bureau, NMED at (505) 327-6854.

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